WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A recording/reproducing apparatus for a domain-wall-displacement magneto-optical recording medium for recording or reproducing an information by irradiating a light beam to a data region subsequent to a preformat region, comprising:

a recording circuit that starts recording of an information in the data region at a predetermined timing with a detection signal obtained in the preformat region being used as a reference; and

a reproducing circuit that starts reproducing of the information recorded in the data region at a timing earlier than the predetermined timing with the detection signal being used as a reference.

2. The recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the predetermined timing is measured on the basis of a pit formed in the preformat region.

3. The recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a clock pit is formed in the preformat region and the predetermined timing is measured by a clock generated in accordance with the clock pit on the basis of the detection signal obtained in the preformat region.

4. The recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the detection signal is a detection signal of the clock pit.

5. The recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a sector mark (SM), a fixed pattern (VFO section) for extracting a clock when detecting an address, an address mark (AM), and an address pit are formed in the preformat region; a fixed pattern (VFO section) for extracting a clock when reproducing the information and a SYNC mark for attaining byte synchronization are formed in the data region; and the timing is measured by a clock with a fixed frequency or a clock generated on the basis of a VFO pattern of the data region with a detection signal obtained in the preformat region being used as a reference.

6. The recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the detection signal is a detection signal of an address mark.

7. The recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a pair of wobble pits for tracking, a clock pit, and an address pit are formed in the preformat region; a fixed pattern (VFO section) for extracting a clock when reproducing the

information and a SYNC mark for attaining byte synchronization are formed in the data region; the recording timing is measured by a clock generated by the clock pit with a detection signal obtained in the preformat region being used as a reference; and the reproducing timing is measured by a clock generated on the basis of a detection signal obtained in the preformat region or a clock generated on the basis of a VFO pattern of the data region, with the detection signal obtained in the preformat region being used as a reference.

8. The recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the detection signal is a detection signal of the clock pit.

9. The recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the medium has a substrate, the data region is provided on a groove portion formed on the substrate, the preformat section is provided on a flat portion of the substrate, and the detection signal is a signal obtained at a boundary portion between the groove portion and the flat portion.

10. The recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the difference between

the recording and the reproducing timings corresponds to a time obtained by dividing a sum of a distance between a position at which a domain wall of a recording mark is formed at the time of recording and a center of a light beam and a distance between a position at which displacement of the domain wall starts at the time of reproducing and the center of the light beam, by a linear velocity of the medium.

11. The recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the reproducing circuit includes a SYNC-mark detection circuit for detecting the SYNC mark and outputting a SYNC matching signal and a detection-window-signal generation circuit for extracting the SYNC matching signal, and the reproducing circuit, when detecting the SYNC matching signal in the detection window signal, starts demodulation of a subsequent information synchronously with the detection timing.

12. The recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the reproducing circuit includes a SYNC-mark detection circuit for detecting the SYNC mark and outputting a SYNC matching signal and a detection-window-signal generation circuit for extracting the SYNC matching signal, and the reproducing circuit, when detecting the SYNC matching

signal in the detection-window-signal, starts demodulation of a subsequent information synchronously with the detection timing.

13. The recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the detection-window generation circuit generates the detection window signal using as a center a timing earlier than a recording timing at a rearmost end of the SYNC mark.

14. The recording/reproducing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the detection-window generation circuit generates the detection window signal using as a center a timing earlier than a recording timing at a rearmost end of the SYNC mark.